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Biographic Sketch

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CHINA
General ZHANG Zhen
September 1994

(~~C/NF~~) NAME: General Zhang (pronounced jahng) Zhen
(1728/7201), People's Liberation Army (PLA).

(~~C/NF~~) POSITION: Vice Chairman of the Military Commission
(MC) of the Central Committee (CC) of the Communist Party of
China (CPC), appointed October 1992; Vice Chairman of the
Central Military Commission (CMC) of the People's Republic of
China since March 1993; [REDACTED]



(~~C/NF~~) 1988

(~~S/NF~~) SIGNIFICANCE: [REDACTED]

A former head

of the National Defense University (NDU). [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] One of the most active
and mentally flexible of the "old school" of PLA leaders, Zhang has an enviable reputation as a
leading training innovator and advocate of learning from foreign armies.

(~~C~~) Having successively held the posts of First Director of the Operation Department of the General
Staff HQ, Deputy Commander of the former Wuhan Military Region, Director of the General Logistics
Department (GLD), member of the MC, and Deputy Chief of the General Staff, he is one of the most
widely versed and experienced generals in the PLA and the oldest officer on active duty. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Zhang remains one of the last full generals
appointed in 1989 to remain on active duty, despite rumors of his imminent retirement.

(~~C/NF~~) POLITICS: [REDACTED] strong proponent of modernization. [REDACTED]

He is, [REDACTED] reform-minded. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Zhang used the NDU as the major showcase for opening up to the outside
world via active exchanges with armed forces of foreign countries. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Zhang established NDU ties
with the U.S. National Defense University [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Under Zhang, the university
entertained such guest lecturers as former U.S. Secretary of Defense Weinberger and other U.S.
military experts [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] the
university has also dispatched teachers and researchers on study and lecture tours or as guest
researchers abroad. [REDACTED]

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General ZHANG Zhen

(~~C/NF~~)

As the first

president of the NDU, an organization formed by merging the PLA's separate political, military, and logistic academies, Zhang was instrumental in developing the training curriculum for senior commanders at and above the army level.

(~~C/NF~~) PERSONAL: Zhang was born in October 1914 in Pingjiang County, Hunan Province.

Zhang is of large build, is 6'2", and weighs 190 lb.

His decorations include the Order of August 1, 2d Class, the Order of Independence and Freedom, 1st Class, and the Order of Liberation, 1st Class.

(~~C/NF~~) CAREER:

Known highlights of

some 60 years of military service include:

- 1928-38 - Joined the Pingjiang County Anti-Imperialist Youth League in 1928. Later joined the Chinese Youth League of China (CYLC), the CPC, and the Red Army in 1930. [redacted] served as a company political instructor, battalion (company-sized unit) commander, and chief of staff of a regiment [redacted] of the 1st Front Army. Participated in the Long March and Shanchengbao campaigns [redacted] In 1936, Zhang entered the North Shaanxi Red Army University.
- 1938-41 - During the War of Resistance against Japan, mobilized guerrilla formations while serving as a staffer and section chief of the Shanxi Office of the Eighth Route Army [redacted] Chief of Staff of the 6th Detachment of the new Fourth Army, 4th Column of [redacted]

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General ZHANG Zhen

the Eighth Route Army and 4th Division of New Fourth Army; and Commander of the Headquarters for Security in the Henan-Anhui-Jiangsu Border Region, Huaibei Military Area Command.

- 1941-45 - [REDACTED] Successively became Chief of Staff of the Fourth Column of the 18th Group Army, Chief of Staff of [REDACTED] Fourth Division of the new Fourth Army, [REDACTED] concurrent commander of its 11th Brigade, and commander of the Luxi Sub-military Area command in North Anhui.
- 1946-50 - During the Chinese civil war, [REDACTED] His positions include Commander and concurrently Political Commissar of the Ninth Column of the Central China Field Army, [REDACTED] Chief of Staff of the West Front Army Corps, [REDACTED] Chief of Staff of the East China Military Area Command and concurrently Chief of Staff of the Third Field Army [REDACTED] He helped direct the Juqi, Huai-Hai, Cross-Yangtze, and Shanghai Military campaigns.
- 1951-58 - After founding of PRC, [REDACTED] Zhang served as head of the Military Operations Department of the PLA General Staff Headquarters (1952-57). [REDACTED] Entered the Korean war in 1953, and served as acting Commander and concurrent Political Commissar of the 24th Army, Chinese People's Volunteers (CPV) in Korea. He graduated from the Department of Campaigns of Nanjing PLA Military Academy in 1957.
- 1958-74 - Vice President of the Nanjing Military Academy until promoted to President in 1960. [REDACTED] In 1972, was appointed Deputy Commander of Wuhan MR. [REDACTED]
- 1975-84 - Appointed as Deputy Director, General Logistics Department (GLD) in October 1975 and Director from 1978 to 1979. [REDACTED] Became Deputy Chief of the General Staff in 1980. [REDACTED] Appointed full member of the 12th CPC CC in January 1982. Accompanied Zhang Aiping's delegation to the United States in the summer of 1984.
- 1985-93 - [REDACTED] Appointed President of the NDU and [REDACTED] member of the Central Advisory Committee in December 1985. He headed a delegation to major U.S. military training academies in 1987. Promoted to [REDACTED]

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general in 1988. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Elected deputy to the 5th NPC, elected alternate member of CPC 11th CC in 1978, full member of CPC 12th CC in 1982, representative to the CPC 13th National Congress and member of the CPC Central Advisory Committee in 1987. He was appointed Vice Chairman of the MC at the 14th Party Congress in October 1992, and elected Vice Chairman of the CMC at the 8th NPC in March 1993. [REDACTED]

PREPARED BY: [REDACTED]

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